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# Memorandum

Date: November 21, 2003

To: Kathy Hill  
Fisheries Management District Supervisor  
Department of Fish and Game  
Region 2  
1701 Nimbus Road, Suite A  
Rancho Cordova, California 95670

From: Department of Water Resources

Subject: For Your Files: 1992 Frenchman Lake Creel Census

In 1992, California Department of Water Resources, Northern District Student Assistants Julie Brown and Grant Blinn led by Environmental Specialist Doug Rischbieter conducted an angler survey at Frenchman Lake, Plumas County. This survey was carried out in conjunction with a recreation and angler survey of Little Last Chance Creek, which was reported in 1997 (DWR Northern District Technical Information Report No. 97-2).

The 1992 Frenchman Lake data were partially discussed in a memorandum from Doug Rischbieter to DFG area biologist Ron Decoto dated May 29, 1996. However, we want to make the complete information available because these data describe angling success one year following the rotenone treatment of Frenchman Lake to remove northern pike. The lake was still at a very low level (17 to 27 percent of capacity) and fishing access was generally limited to areas near the dam.

In 1992, Frenchman Lake anglers were contacted on nine dates between April 25 and August 2. During this period 120 anglers were interviewed who had fished 336 hours, with an observed catch of 132 rainbow trout and 2 brown trout (0.40 trout per hour). In addition, 75 rainbow trout were reported caught, or reported caught and released.

Mean fork length of 90 measured rainbow trout was 30.0 cm (11.8 in) (Figure 1), and the two brown trout measured 34.5 and 32.5 cm (13.6 and 12.8 in). The largest rainbow trout measured 43.0 cm (16.9 in).

Shore anglers totaled 105 anglers who had fished 270 hours and caught 93 rainbow trout (0.34 trout per hour). They reported catching, or catching and releasing 31 additional rainbow trout.

Boat anglers totaled 15 anglers who had fished 66 hours and caught 39 rainbow trout and two brown trout (0.62 trout per hour). They reported catching, or catching and releasing 44 additional rainbow trout.

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About 77 percent of the anglers fished exclusively with bait, 10 percent with bait and lures, 7 percent with flies, and 6 percent with lures only.

Over 69 percent of the anglers originated from out of state (mostly Reno and Sparks, Nevada), about 11 percent were from Sacramento, 10 percent from the San Francisco Bay area, and 6 percent from the Northeast Counties (mostly Lassen). The remaining four percent were widely scattered among other regions of California (Figure 2).

If you have any questions or require additional information regarding this survey, please contact me at (530) 529-7393 or [www.hintonr@water.ca.gov](mailto:www.hintonr@water.ca.gov).

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

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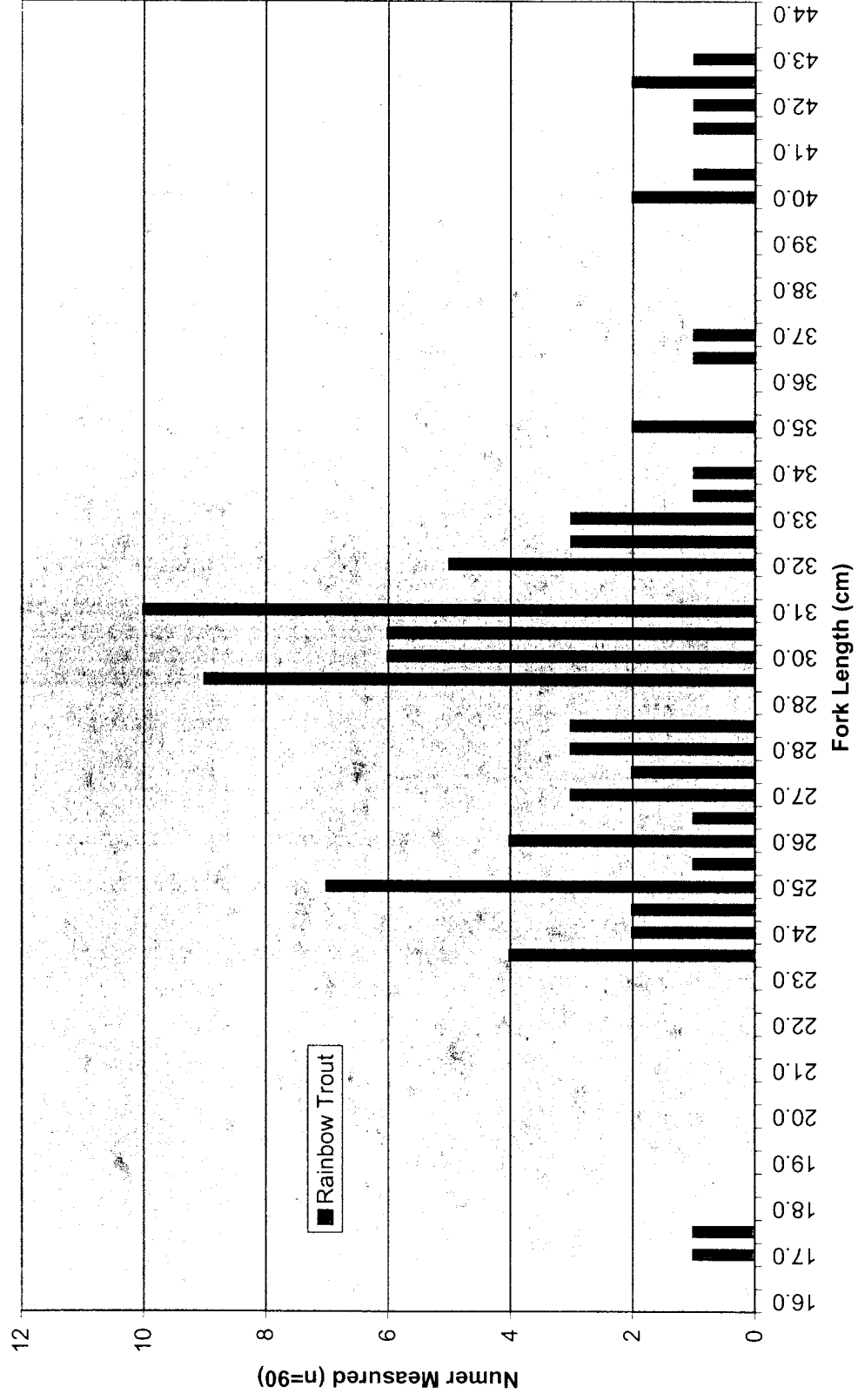
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Spell Check: November 20, 2003

**FIGURE 1**  
**Length-Frequency of Rainbow Trout**  
**Frenchman Lake - 1992**



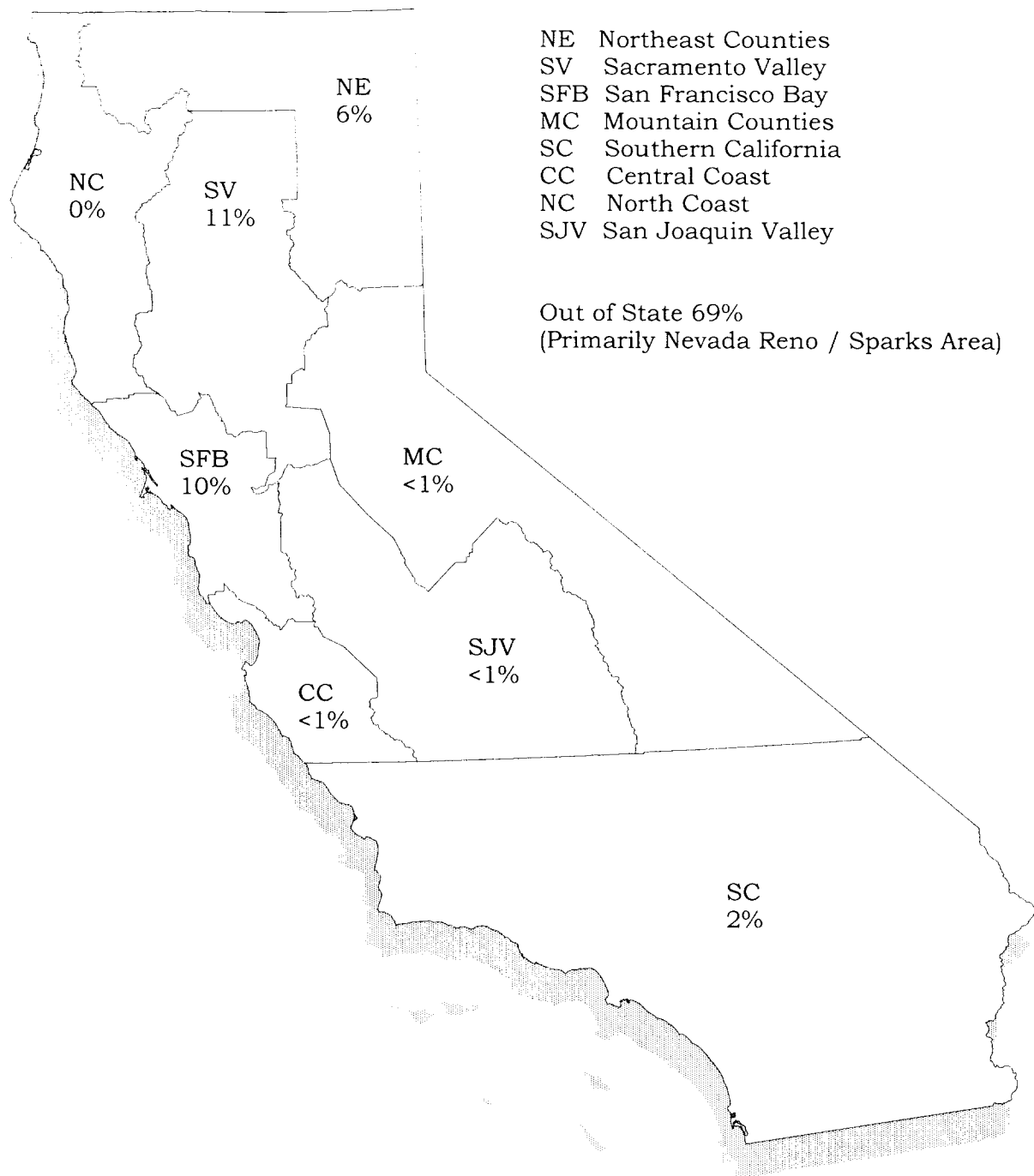


Figure 2 - Frenchman Lake - Angler Origin by County Groups - 1992